

**To:** Woolford, James[Woolford.James@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Barr, Pamela[Barr.Pamela@epa.gov]  
**From:** Heimerman, Jeffrey  
**Sent:** Thur 8/13/2015 3:54:46 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Language to help with Administrators talking points

FYI

**From:** Greenberg, Marc  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 11:51 AM  
**To:** Cheatham, Reggie; Burke, Thomas  
**Cc:** Heimerman, Jeffrey  
**Subject:** RE: Language to help with Administrators talking points

I'm available and at my desk. Can we do a conference call with Jeff and me?

**Nonresponsive Conference Code**

Now is fine if this works, otherwise give us a time and we'll open the bridge.

**From:** Cheatham, Reggie  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 11:44 AM  
**To:** Burke, Thomas  
**Cc:** Greenberg, Marc; Heimerman, Jeffrey  
**Subject:** RE: Language to help with Administrators talking points

Tom let me pull in Marc for the specifics

Reggie Cheatham, Director

Office of Emergency Management, USEPA

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[cheatham.reggie@epa.gov](mailto:cheatham.reggie@epa.gov)

**From:** Burke, Thomas  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 11:35 AM  
**To:** Cheatham, Reggie  
**Subject:** Re: Language to help with Administrators talking points

Most interested in the "indicators for action" phrase. Do we have more detail on these indicators?

Thomas A. Burke, PhD, MPH

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On Aug 13, 2015, at 11:27 AM, Cheatham, Reggie <[cheatham.reggie@epa.gov](mailto:cheatham.reggie@epa.gov)> wrote:

Tom

Here is some cleared language from OSWER on the contaminated sediment issue that may help with the assignment Mathy advised us of. Call if you have questions. Thanks

### **Approach for Sediment Monitoring in the Aftermath of the 2015 Gold King Mine Blowout**

The EPA Contaminated Sediment Remediation Guidance for Hazardous Waste Sites (EPA-540-R-05-012, OSWER 9355.0-85, 2005) was developed to provide technical and policy guidance for project managers and management teams making remedy decisions for

contaminated sediment sites. Although this guidance is predominantly used in the Superfund remedial and removal programs, it provides relevant information applicable to the development of an approach for sediment monitoring in the aftermath of the emergency response associated with the Gold King Mine blowout. The guidance outlines several key questions that should be considered for a sediment monitoring program that focus on its purpose, sampling and analysis details, temporal and spatial scales for the sampling, development of indicators for action, if warranted, or termination of the program, and communication of the results with the public. A scientifically-based approach for future monitoring—that is monitoring that is done after the emergency response transitions to environmental monitoring—will be developed to track ecosystem status or recovery if there have been adverse impacts. The monitoring plan will identify decisions that are to be made and what data is necessary to make these decisions. The plan will denote several locations for sampling sediments and water throughout the impacted river system, including the Animas and San Juan Rivers. EPA will use the available historical pre-blowout data for sediment and water to serve as a baseline or reference point to address the question on whether any impacts from the blowout have passed. The monitoring plan will be designed to address this question and other decisions important to EPA, states, tribes and the public. The plan will be initially implemented over several weeks and will be updated based on input from stakeholders. The comparison of the monitoring results to pre-incident data will be a critical determinant for decision-making.

Reggie Cheatham, Director

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